



The Episcopal Diocese *of* Vermont

Application for Consent to Remarriage after Divorce, Annulment, or Dissolution (2025)

According to the Canons of The Episcopal Church (Title I, Canon 19, sec. 3(c)), no member of the clergy shall solemnize the remarriage of any member of the Church unless there is appropriate evidence that the prior marriage has been dissolved by a judgement or decree in a civil court.

The member of the clergy must also have instructed the parties that concern must be shown for a prior spouse and any children of the prior marriage, when applicable.

The member of the clergy must consult with and obtain consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont prior to solemnization of any remarriage.

This Application is not meant to be a hindrance to the solemnization of any marriage, but instead to be a means of reflection, healing, and hope. If you have any questions about this application or the process of receiving consent please, contact [Rev. Canon Susan Ohlidal](#), Canon to the Ordinary for Missional Vitality.

Updated 2025

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The Application Process

1. Applications must be submitted to the Office of the Bishop at least 60 days prior to the proposed date of the marriage.
 2. The Application must be submitted by the officiating priest. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.
 3. A separate Application needs to be submitted for each divorced person in the couple. Applications where both parties have been previously divorced should be submitted together.
 4. The Declaration of Intent, as required by Title I, Canon 18, Sec. 4, signed by both parties of the intended marriage. A copy of this Declaration must be included with this Application.
 5. Please note that if one or both parties has been divorced two times, a copy of a letter from a licensed professional counselor stating the couple has attended at least five sessions and in their professional opinion that:
 - a. They have come to terms with the end of any previous relationships and any unresolved issues
 - b. They have addressed possible patterns of behavior that led to the end of previous relationships
 - c. They have explored how each person deals with conflict in previous and current relationships
 - d. They have learned best practices for parenting children from previous marriages (if applicable).
 6. If the proposed marriage is to be solemnized in a diocese other than the one in which the consent has been given to the officiating clergy, the consent shall be affirmed by the Bishop of that diocese in writing. A copy of such consent must be sent to the Diocesan Office.
 7. If you did not facilitate premarital counseling, then the priest who did will need to write a separate letter. You should include a note to the bishop stating why you have been asked to officiate at this wedding and why you personally support this application.
7. Completed Applications should be submitted to:
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown
Bishop of Vermont
Email: bishopshannon@diovermont.org ; copy to bishopsassistant@diovermont.org
or
US mail: 5 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT 05408

The Application

Part 1, Applicant Information

Applicant's Full Name:

Age: _____ Known to me since: _____

Church Affiliation and location:

Baptismal date: _____ Place: _____

Potential Spouse's Name:

_____ Age: _____

Known to me since: _____

Church Affiliation and location:

Baptismal date: _____ Place: _____

Number of previous marriages, civil unions, etc.: _____

Beginning _____ Ending _____

Beginning _____ Ending _____

Date of Final Divorce/Annulment/Dissolution:

Court where Final Divorce/Annulment/Dissolution was entered:

Date and location of proposed marriage:

Part 2, For the Officiating Priest

Please check...

- This ceremony will take place in the Diocese of Vermont, or I have received written permission from the bishop of the diocese in which I have been asked to officiate.
- I have no reservations in solemnizing this marriage.
- I have personally reviewed a certified divorce or annulment decree and kept a copy for my files.

In counseling this couple, I hereby declare that (please check):

- I have ascertained that they have not been refused marriage in the Episcopal Church to each other by any bishop or priest of this Church.
- I have reviewed with the applicants the DECLARATION OF INTENT required by Canon I.18.4. They have signed it in good conscience. (A copy of their Declaration must accompany this request.)
- They have received the instruction and counsel required by Canons I.18 and 19 of The Episcopal Church.
- I am satisfied that they intend to maintain a loving Christian marriage as understood by teachings of this church and I am willing to officiate at their wedding.
- They have planned for the care of minor children (visitation, financial arrangements, and blended family incorporation issues).
- Notice that this marriage has taken place will be sent to the Office of the Bishop to complete this record, as required by I.19.3(c).
- If one or both parties has been divorced two times, I have received and included a letter from a licensed professional counselor.

Clergy Signature _____ Date _____